

Group II claims 23-35, drawn to a circular ring for attachment to a plate,  
classified in class 74, subclass 551.9; and

Group III claims 40-46 & 56-63, drawn to a method of facilitating conversation,  
classified in class 273, subclass 236.

Applicants submit that the Group I claims and the Group III claims are directed to  
the same invention. While Group I includes apparatus claims and Group III includes method  
claims, these two groups describe similar material, and indeed would require the same search.  
Applicants therefore request that the Group I and Group III claims be examined.

Nonetheless, Applicants elect, **with traverse**, Group I claims 1-22, 36-39 & 47-  
54 for further prosecution in the present application.

Applicants reserve their right to file a divisional application to re-present  
nonelected claims 23-35 and 40-46 & 56-63.

Applicants respectfully request that the period for reply be extended five months,  
i.e., up to and including June 17, 2003. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$985.00 in payment  
of the fee therefore for a small entity. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any  
additional fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 50-0320.

An early examination on the merits of the elected claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Gordon Kessler  
Registration No. 38,511  
(212) 588-0800